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Attorney Docket No. IMMR-022/01US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Gregory L. MERRIL et al.

Serial No.: 09/811,358

Examiner: John M. Mulcahy

Confirmation No.: 7776

Art Unit: 3739

Filed: March 16, 2001

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING FORCE FOR
MANIPULATION OF MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS**

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REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

In response to the Official Action dated May 21, 2003, the period of reply to which is hereby extended to September 22, 2003 (September 21 falling on a Sunday) by the Petition for Extension of Time, filed herewith Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks.

Applicants do not believe that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in the documents accompanying this paper. If additional extensions of time are necessary, however, to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks being on page 7 of this paper.